

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Applicant has amended the Specification at page 1, line 4 (Paragraph 1) to include the full continuity information for this application and its antecedents.

This application is a continuation-in-part both of prior Application No. 09/487,981, filed January 20, 2000, since abandoned, and of prior Application No. 09/692,674, filed October 18, 2000, since abandoned.

Prior Application No. 09/692,674 is a continuation-in-part of prior Application No. 09/487,981, filed January 20, 2000 and since abandoned. Prior Application No. 09/487,981 is a continuation of prior Application No. 08/920,417, filed August 29, 1997 and issued as Patent No. 6,109,850 on August 29, 2000. Prior Application No. 08/920,417 is a continuation of prior Application No. 08/725,003, filed October 1, 1996 and since abandoned.

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Original claims 1-25 and new claims 26-36 remain in this application. New claims 26-36 are added by this amendment.

Independent claim 26 claims a multi-ply wood structure shear connection in which wood structural members are joined by *self-drilling* wood screws “driven through at least a substantial portion of each of said wood structural members” and “a plurality of wood structural members each having at least one *relatively narrow* edge face and one *relatively wide* side face.” Dependent claim 27 calls for “edge faces ... placed in edge-to-edge configuration and ... side faces ... placed in side-by-side configuration” as well as driving “each of said self-drilling wood screw fasteners ... through an edge face of one

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of said wood structural members.” Dependent claims 28-36 claim other details of the connection. Applicant believes that no new matter has been added and the wording is substantially similar to original claims 1-25, except that the phrasing has been amended for both breadth and clarity.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,  
LAW OFFICE OF JAMES R. CYPHER

By /Charles R. Cypher /  
Charles R. Cypher  
Reg. No. 41,694  
Tel.: (510) 832-4111